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For a 1969 report on graduate programs in English, the Association of Departments of English, obtained information from chairmen or directors of graduate study in English at 223 institutions. This document contains some of the information collected for the full report (available through ERIC as "Graduate Programs in English: A 1969 Report" by Bonnie E. Nelson). Part One is an outline of a 4-year Ph.D. program to be offered in 1969 at Boston College. Part Two contains a proposal for a Memphis State University Ph.D. program which is designed to be completed no later than five years after the M.A. (BN)

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FUTURE PH.D. PROGRAMS IN ENGLISH AT BOSTON COLLEGE AND MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY

1969

TE 500 569

FOREWORD

The information in this document was collected by The Association of Departments of English for a report on graduate programs in English. For the full report which is available through the Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC), see Graduate Programs in English and American Literature: A 1969 Report by Bonnie E. Nelson. Other companion reports, containing some of the information on which the full report is based, are also available through ERIC. See:

(1) A Proposal for the Establishment of an English Ph.D. Program Beginning 1970-1971 at the University of Idaho, Moscow.
(2) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at the University of Miami, Oxford, and the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee.
(3) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at Teachers College (Columbia), Duke University, and Princeton University.
(4) Description of the Graduate Program in English at the University of Iowa.
(5) Descriptions of Recently Revised Graduate Programs in English at Indiana University (Bloomington), New York University, and the University of South Carolina.
(6) Future Ph.D. Programs in English at Boston College and Memphis State University.
(7) Graduate Programs in English at Marquette University, and the University of Michigan--Bulletins for Graduate Students.
(8) A Handbook for Graduate Students at the University of British Columbia.
(9) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at the University of Wisconsin (Madison), and the University of Cincinnati.
(10) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and the University of Illinois, Urbana.
(11) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Illinois State University, and DePauw University.
(12) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at the Pennsylvania State University and the University of Tennessee.
(13) Descriptions of Graduate Programs in English at Texas Technological College and the University of Oregon, Eugene.

BOSTON COLLEGE

OUTLINE OF A PH.D. PROGRAM TO BE OFFERED IN 1969

1. Time of doctoral studies:

4 years, distributed as follows:

Two years in English studies. During this time the students will, in addition to their course work, work in close co-operation with faculty members, assisting them in on-going research projects and occasionally conducting seminar sessions or delivering course lectures. A mentorship arrangement under which each student will have the benefit of a senior faculty member's experience in research and teaching will be considered as an integral part of these two years.

One year of supervised teaching, under the direction of the faculty mentor; and preparation for the comprehensive examinations to be given at the end of the year.

One year of full-time preparation and completion of the dissertation, whose topic must have been approved by the summer of the previous year. The dissertation shall be defined as a learned article, "publishable" in the sense that the director and reader agree that it would receive serious consideration from the learned journals. The dissertation shall be submitted in finished form at the end of the fourth year.

2. Language requirements.

Prior to admission to doctoral studies, or before the end of the first year, the candidate will give evidence of reasonable mastery of one foreign language. The specification of particular languages would be tied to the area of concentration; i.e., Medieval and Renaissance literature would require Latin, Neo-Classic literature would require French, and so forth.

3. Examinations.

At the end of the third year of residency, the candidate would write examinations in four of the specified areas (see below), and would be expected to have had courses in those areas in

which he chooses not to be examined. In addition to these written examinations, the candidate will be examined in an oral, two hours in length, one-half of which will be in the area of concentration. There will be no defense of thesis.

4. Courses.

A wide distribution of courses rather than an intense specialization is recommended. To achieve this distribution, doctoral candidates may take courses at both the 200 and 300 level; and will be required to take one 400 level course in each semester of the first two years.

The areas of study will be defined as:

1. Medieval (including Old English) to 1500.
2. Literature 1500-1600, including both dramatic and non-dramatic literature.
3. Literature, 1600-1800, dramatic and non-dramatic.
4. Literature 1800-1900, dramatic and non-dramatic.
5. Twentieth-century British Literature.
6. Twentieth-century American Literature.
7. American Literature of the Colonial and post-Colonial periods.

Program B.

1. Time of doctoral studies:

Same as in Program A, with the same conditions of mentorship in effect. The thesis shall be defined as in Program A.

2. Language and Discipline requirements.

The intention of Program B. is to foster a cogent and defensible inter-disciplinary approach to English studies, Thus, in addition to satisfying the language requirement as in Program A, the candidate shall demonstrate a familiarity with and control of essential concepts and bibliography of the related field in which he chooses to work (i.e., art history, anthropology, history of science, theology, etc.). The departmental examining committee reserves the right to judge the competence of the candidate in these matters.

3. Examinations.

The focus of Program B is not historical, as in

Program A; rather, the focus is on literature as a structuring and structured experience. Basic components of this structural approach include (a) textual accuracy, (b) linguistic subtlety, (c) multiform critical approaches. Consequently, examinations will concentrate on assessing the candidate's command of analytic and descriptive bibliography; awareness of several English language systems and proficiency in one system; and awareness of several critical systems and proficiency in one system, the last item being a result of the interdisciplinary course of studies. These examinations will be written, as in Program A, at the end of the third year of residency.

In addition to these written examinations, the candidate will be examined in an oral, two hours in length, to determine the cogency and the defensibility of his integration of the literary and non-literary fields of study.

4. Courses.

The candidate will be required to take one 400 course in each semester of the first two years. Before presenting himself for examination at the end of the third year, the candidate will have taken a course of courses in each of the seven areas as defined in Program A; but pre-Ph.D. course work will be accepted as satisfying this requirement. Beyond this, the student may elect to study in any academic graduate department he chooses that has relevance to his particular interdisciplinary program.

MEMPHIS STATE UNIVERSITY
Proposals toward a Ph.D. Program
Memphis State University Spring, 1967

1. Each Ph.D. candidate, after completing the M.A. degree or its equivalent in semester hours, will be provided with an advisory committee of three whose function it will be to oversee the progress of the candidate to the degree -- including approval of a program of courses and a thesis project -- and to administer the final oral examination. Selection of committee members will be the joint responsibility of the candidate and members of the graduate English faculty who will designate one member of the committee as chairman. If it be necessary later to appoint a thesis director from outside the committee, the decision as to who shall be appointed will be a joint decision of the committee and the student involved. The appointed thesis director shall replace one of the current committee members. An immediate report concerning the personnel of the committee will be submitted by the committee chairman to the chairman of the department for his approval. The peculiar responsibilities of the committee chairman will lie in the areas of (a) endorsing the candidate's selection of courses at registration; (b) acting as liaison between the candidate and the office of the dean of graduate studies in such matters as reports on language certification, thesis topic, examinations, and similar routine matters; (c) convening meetings of the committee to discuss problems involving the status and progress of the candidate.

   The committee will also be responsible for framing written qualifying and comprehensive examinations, in which task they will be free to seek advice and assistance from other members of the graduate faculty, and for reading and evaluating such examinations with the same freedom of consultation.

2. The candidate will be expected to accumulate a total of sixty semester hours (including thesis hours) or its equivalent beyond M.A. degree, though accumulation of credit will not of itself satisfy degree requirements. The program should be completed no later than five years after completion of the M.A. degree or its equivalent in credit hours. Any candidate who does not complete the program within this time will be required to take the comprehensive examinations over again before submitting the thesis for final approval or taking the final oral examination, and in cases of excessive time lapse may be required to take additional course work.

3. Preliminary or qualifying examinations, oral and written, must be completed not later than the completion of forty-five semester hours of graduate study.

4. Candidates taking the M.A. degree at Memphis State University may apply for both written and oral examination with a view to making this examination the Ph.D. preliminary. The examining committee will decide whether the student has passed the M.A. examination. The committee in collaboration with the director of graduate studies in English and the chairman of the department will decide whether the examination admits the student to candidacy in the Ph.D. program.

Proposals toward a Ph.D. Program

5. The M.A. degree is not a prerequisite to the Ph.D., but all candidates are urged to take the M.A. degree for prudential reasons.

6. The preliminary or qualifying examination will cover English and American literary history and a list of works supplied by the department. That part of the examination specifically concerned with English and American literature will be tailored as nearly as possible to the candidate's past studies in these subjects. Nevertheless, it will be assumed that the candidate has an adequate over-all grasp of both fields. The list to be supplied will include documents in literary criticism from classical to modern times which are generally agreed to be fundamental to a knowledge of that discipline.

7. Before taking preliminary examinations, the prospective cnadidate must have satisfied the language requirement in at least one language.

8. The language requirement includes the following options: (a) a reading knowledge of two of the following languages -- French, German, Latin; (b) a knowledge of one of these languages and the literature in that language based on at least the equivalent of an undergraduate major in the language; (c) only where thesis studies require proficiency in a language not mentioned above may that language be substituted on recommendation of the advisory committee and the director of graduate studies in English, and with the consent of the department chairman.

9. Any candidate proposing a thesis in medieval studies must offer Latin as one of the languages, or as the language (option b), to fulfill the language requirement.

10. The comprehensive written examination may require the candidate to demonstrate his command of the language or languages already certified.

11. Comprehensive written examinations must be passed before the candidate begins his last thirty semester hours of work or the equivalent. At the department's discretion, the student may be required to take an oral examination also. In case of failure in the comprehensive examination or in any part or parts, the student may have an opportunity to retake the entire examination or any part or parts in which he has been unsuccessful.

12. The last year of graduate work (thirty semester hours) should be devoted to the writing of a thesis, the subject of which, ideally, should have been pondered by the candidate for some time previously. This thesis may be in the form of (a) an encyclopedic treatment of a simgle topic or (b) a series of shorter papers of different kinds (historical, textual, critical). During the writing of the thesis, the student should be encouraged to enroll in one course per semester.

13. If, in the opinion of the advisory committee, the proposed thesis or the finished product does not appear to merit thirty semester hours of credit, the candidate will be required to complete additional course work to bring his graduate credit to a total of ninety semester hours Such an exigency would arise only if a majority of the advisory committee considered that the thesis was sufficiently sound to merit a large percentage of the aforesaid thirty hours credit.

Proposals toward a Ph.D. Program

14. It will be assumed that the candidate has background in philosophy, history, and associated subjects adequate to support his program in literature. If a majority of the committee agrees that he does not have such background, the candidate will be permitted to take courses outside the department, and may be required to complete such a program of courses, the proportions of which will be determined by the committee in the interests of the student's academic maturing.

15. The final examination will be an oral examination presided over by the chairman of the advisory committee. Examiners will be members of this committee plus the graduate faculty in English, and such other members of the faculty as choose to attend.

16. Each candidate who intends to enter the teaching profession must demonstrate some efficacy in classroom teaching within the programs provided by the department of English.